

STRUGGLE ★ LA LUCHA

for Socialism | por el Socialismo



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Defend activists & organizers under attack! Defend Black lives!



Protesters arrested during police riot in Tallahassee, Fla. Sept. 5.

As the anti-racist uprising of 2020 roiled “business as usual” in cities across the U.S., many protesters have been hit with severe charges after being arrested for offenses that would normally be considered violations or misdemeanors. Many arrestees are facing possible sentences of years in prison or even life sentences.

In a dangerous attack on our right to protest, Attorney General William Barr in a recent conference call with U.S. attorneys across the country even encouraged sedition charges be widely used against anti-racist protestors. Sedition means conspiracy and intent to overthrow the U.S. government and can result in 20 years in prison.

The Socialist Unity Party has issued an appeal to all revolutionary left organizations and activists to unite in defense of those facing repression from the capitalist state and its allies in the white supremacist-fascist movement.

Please share widely. This list will be updated regularly. If you know of a case that should be added, send details to info@struggle-la-lucha.org.

Here are some important cases and actions that your organization or you as an individual can help to publicize and defend:

Louisville

In Louisville Sept. 24, cops trapped and corralled marchers protesting the state’s refusal to charge the cops who murdered Breonna Taylor. They arrested 127 people and surrounded a church where protesters had gathered, refusing to let them leave.

Among the arrested were State Rep. Attica Scott and her daughter Ashanti. Representative Scott was targeted by the cops, who shouted, “Circle her,” as she and her daughter tried to enter the church.

Scott, the only Black woman in the Kentucky legislature, is the author of a bill to abolish no-knock warrants in the state, Breonna’s Law. She is charged with inciting to riot. That’s the same level of felony as the wanton endangerment charge against former cop Brett Hankison, who fired into the wrong apartment when his partners were murdering Breonna Taylor.

Cops absurdly accuse Scott and other protesters of trying to burn down a public library. “I have no idea where that came from and I’m quite frankly offended and disgusted that they would try to accuse me of setting fire to the library when I’m one of its biggest champions,” Scott said. “And this is the library in my district, District 41. That makes absolutely no sense.”

San Diego

Denzel Draughn, a well-known San Diego anti-racist activist and supporter of the African People’s Socialist Party, was arrested Aug. 28 at a demonstration in solidarity with the movement in Kenosha, Wis., calling for justice for Jacob Blake, who was shot seven times in the back by police. Draughn is charged based on the ridiculous claim that he pepper-sprayed nine cops. He is facing 19

Continued on page 4

[Catholic Church reparations](#) 2

[Baltimore housing justice](#) 2

[Calif: fires, racism & sexism](#) 3

[The Supreme Court](#) 4

[Big Oil & Trump](#) 5

[Meatpacking – COVID](#) 6

[Pentagon out of Philippines](#) 7

[Teachers for safety](#) 7

In fight against killer cops, ‘An injury to one is an injury to all’

On Sept. 19, the newly formed New York City chapter of the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression held a rally in Union Square Park to demand: “Stop police crimes! Withdraw federal troops! Community control now!” It was part of a national day of action called by the NAARPR.

Speakers expressed their commitment to the struggle to defend Black lives from police murder and to keep the fight going and growing in the streets. They also called for solidarity with activists and community members targeted for repression by the police and Trump administration.

Participating groups included the New York Community Action Project, BAYAN USA, New York Boricua Resistance and the Communist Party USA. A highlight of the rally was the announcement by three high school students that they are forming a New York chapter of the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS).

The following remarks were given by Greg Butterfield, representing the Socialist Unity Party and Struggle-La Lucha newspaper:

“We’re proud to be here today with all of you, and to be part of the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression. The launching of the New York Alliance is a big step forward.

“It’s been almost exactly 10 years since the FBI raids on anti-war activists in the Midwest, including several members of the Freedom Road Socialist Organization. Back then, the revolutionary left rallied to the defense of these comrades, and eventually, together, we succeeded in beating back the government attack.

“Why do I bring this up? After all, we want to focus on building the movement to defend Black lives, for community control of the police. We want to encourage people to stay in the streets and not back down. But to do that, people have

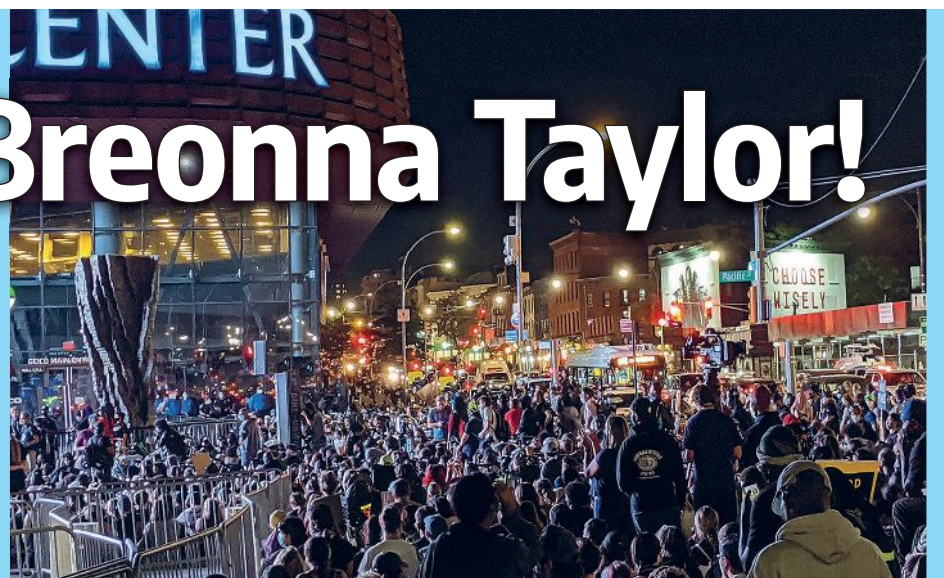
Continued on page 6

‘Say her name! No justice, no peace!’ Breonna Taylor!

By Greg Butterfield

“Say her name! Breonna Taylor! No justice, no peace!” The cry rang out through the streets of Brooklyn, N.Y., on Sept. 23 as more than a thousand people gathered at Barclays Center to protest the exoneration of the Louisville cops who murdered Breonna Taylor. Later, the crowd marched across the Manhattan Bridge and converged with hundreds more protesters in Manhattan.

SLL photo: Greg Butterfield



Why the Catholic Church owes reparations to California's Indigenous peoples

By Zola Fish

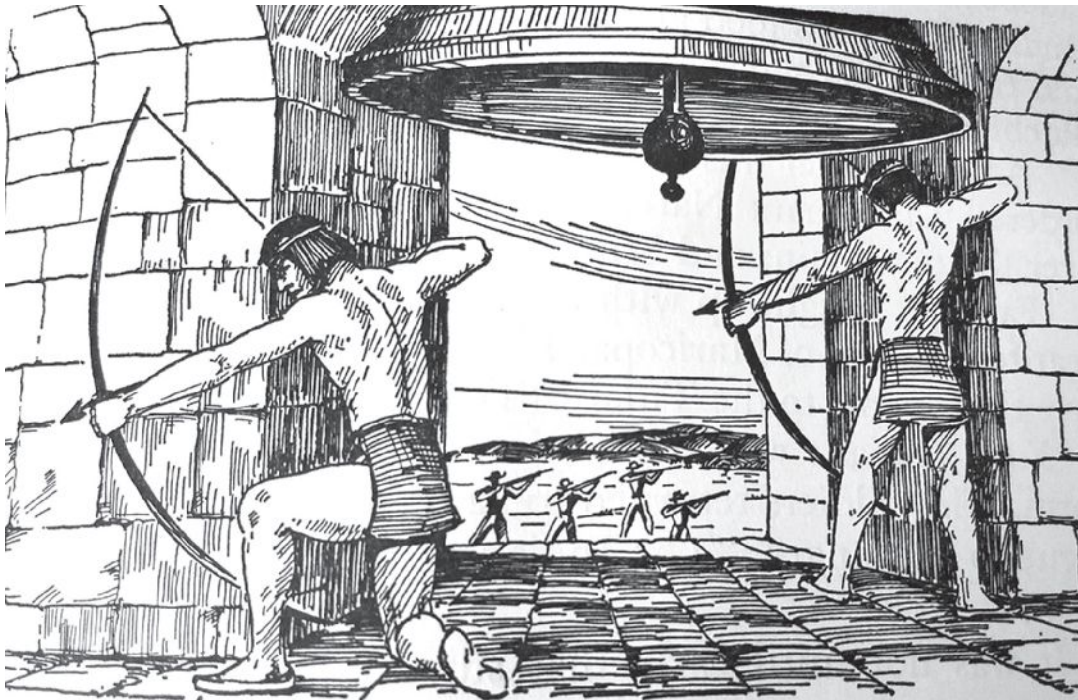
On July 1, 1769, Father Junípero Serra reached the top of a bluff overlooking what is now San Diego Harbor and declared the area “San Diego” (Saint Didacus) for the Spanish colonists. Serra had a burning obsession with Native people. His goal was to baptize as many “savages” as he could and force them to assimilate to European colonialist norms and culture.

The educational system established in California by the Spanish colonists, and later adopted by the U.S., enforced the myth of Serra as a devout Jesuit who loved and cared for the Indigenous people of the land. In Spain he was thought of as the savior of California. The King of Spain wanted California, and Serra had promised him success. The Catholic Church was a major weapon used by the colonizers to achieve their ends.

In 2015, Pope Francis made Serra a saint, despite the outcry of Native peoples and their allies. The Pope who promised to be progressive turned a man responsible for cultural genocide and countless deaths into an official figure of veneration in the 21st century.

Brutal colonizer

Fr. Serra's first California mission was created on July 16, 1769. A cross was raised facing the harbor where the San Diego Presidio stands, and a makeshift altar was constructed.



The Chumash Revolt of 1824 was part of a long history of Indigenous resistance to colonialism in California.

The Spaniards didn't have an organ, so they discharged their firearms instead. The smoke from muskets acted as incense as the first mass was performed.

Serra somehow convinced a Native couple to allow their new baby to be baptized. According to “The Life and Times of Father Junípero Serra” by Francis J. Webber, the ceremony went smoothly at first. But when Serra raised his hand to sprinkle water on the baby's head, the parents grabbed the child and ran off. The child's father was so devastated, it was said that he cried whenever the ceremony was mentioned.

Serra was a brutal colonizer who ordered the Spanish army to kill

many Natives who refused to convert and assimilate. Those who did convert were enslaved.

Six thousand Native people were baptized, then forced to live at the missions and become slave laborers. When slaves tried to escape, they were caught, brought back and executed as examples.

If a Catholic teaching wasn't followed correctly, the accused Native person was deemed “immoral.” The victim was whipped and beaten in the same manner as Black slaves.

Serra and the Church did not build the missions, as it says in our children's history books. No! Six thousand Native American slaves built the mission system.

Genocidal system

Historians have studied the birth and death records kept by the Spanish colonizers. Under Serra, more Natives died than were born. If the people were not murdered or enslaved, they were killed off by diseases that the Spanish colonizers brought with them.

There are records of “Indian uprisings” from 1769 to 1882. The Natives continually fought Serra and the other colonizers. Native blood drenched the land that the I-8 Freeway now passes through.

To this day, Native peoples in California live with the consequences of Catholic Spanish colonialism. Native people suffered genocide under the Catholic Church: a colonial genocide of human lives and a cultural genocide of Native ways and languages. This was on top of the theft of their land that did not and does not belong to the colonizers.

The Catholic Church owes reparations to all Native tribes, bands and nations along the California coast. History books need to be rewritten to tell the truth of Saint Junípero Serra. He was not a hero of California, nor was he the “Radical” of Spain. He was a brutal colonizer, slaver and murderer.

The Catholic Church is a vastly wealthy capitalist institution. If it can make reparations to the victims of priests that sexually abused children, then surely it can pay up and make reparations to the Native peoples of California.

Zola Fish is a member of the Choctaw Nation.

Rally for housing justice in Baltimore

By Lev Koufax

On Sept. 14, activists with the Peoples Power Assembly and delegates of the Baltimore public housing Resident Advisory Board marched and rallied for housing justice. The demonstrators demanded increased funding for public housing and an end to attempted privatization of Baltimore city public housing. For several years, the government of Baltimore City and Johns Hopkins University have been working to pave over public housing developments and replace them with condominiums for young professionals.

In the meantime, funding for public housing maintenance and upkeep have been slashed significantly. Most egregiously, the city has refused to provide COVID-19 relief money to Baltimore residents of public housing. When the Resident Advisory Board spoke out against this failure, it was met with attacks from the city government. The Resident Advisory Board is a group of individuals who advocate on behalf of tenants of the 7,000 public housing units in Baltimore City.

For these reasons, the demonstration outside City Hall demanded “Hands off!” the Resident Advisory Board, no more sales of public housing units, the cancellation of evictions and rent during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the delivery of 10.7 million dollars in relief funds to the Resident Advisory Board!



Fires, climate and prisons: Systematic racism, sexism is deadly

By John Parker

Los Angeles, Sept. 18 — The National Interagency Fire Center, which provides unified guidance for fire agencies in the U.S., said the fires burning in Washington state, Oregon and California since the end of August have burnt over 4.5 million acres so far — an area larger than Connecticut.

The skies in California can attest to that. They've gone from grey to red and back to grey again and the air quality here in South Central Los Angeles is registered as USG — Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups — meaning folks with asthma and other pulmonary diseases shouldn't be outside exercising and should spend most of the day inside.

For some, this latest crisis drives home the warnings of scientists worldwide about the dangers of doing nothing about global warming. For others, like Trump and his flock, it's just about the origin of the fires, the match, or the lightning, or whatever initially started the fire. We needn't concern ourselves, they say, with the intensity and duration of the fire that follows, just focus on the match.

Last month, Trump said at one of his rallies that if you want to stop the fires, "You've got to clean your forests. There are many, many years of leaves and broken trees and they're ... so flammable," the BBC reported.

Tree debris isn't new, greenhouse gas levels are new

Yeah, those untidy plants have been making a mess for about 370 million years on earth. So, that's nothing new. But what's different is the historically recent exponential increase in the level of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. A rake isn't going to fix that.

Although the headlines today are focused on the West Coast, actually these fires have been a global phenomenon. Wildfires have burned large areas of our planet in various continents with smoke drifting across oceans and exacerbating global warming.

According to Matt McGrath, environmental correspondent for BBC news, "While natural factors such as strong winds have helped the spread of these massive fires, the underlying heating of the climate from human activities is making these conflagrations bigger and more explosive."

McGrath writes that nine of the ten warmest years on record have happened since 2005 and the United Nations had already warned that five years from 2016 would be the hottest ever recorded. This is why, he says, six of the 20 largest fires on record in California all occurred this year. In addition, a prolonged drought over the past decade has killed millions of trees, turning them into potent fuel for the fires.

"Climate scientists had forecast that western wildfires would grow in size, scale and impact — but their predictions are coming to fruition faster than expected," writes McGrath.

Tens of thousands evacuated, but not prisoners

The North Complex Fire in northern California, in the counties of Plumas and Butte, initially started by lightning on Aug. 17, 2020, is among the deadliest in history. So far, news reports say that ten bodies have been found and another 16 people are missing.

Last week, the Los Angeles Times reported that 20 people in California had died from the fires since Aug. 15. BBC News reported that tens of thousands of people are under evacuation orders in California as 14,800 firefighters continue to combat 28 major fires in the state.

However, the fires in California are not only threatening the lives of people whose homes are located near the flames, they are also a major concern for prisoners who are recruited to fight the fires or who are incarcerated in prisons near them. According to the New York Times, these firefighters are paid up to five dollars per day (that's right, per day!) with an extra one dollar per hour while fighting fires, as if their lives are the most expendable. The prisoner firefighters are highly trained to face the most hazardous conditions and are on the front lines of the fires.

And, if that doesn't kill them, then the exacerbation of the COVID-19 crisis, which already affects prisoners more than the general population due to overcrowding and no possible social distancing due to lack of space and sanitary equipment and items may.

Prisoners are being either evacuated into already overcrowded prisons with no testing for the virus, or are at risk of burning to death because of a lack of evacuation planning with the necessary transportation required.

The New York Times article reports that in the northern California city of Vacaville, while volunteers rescued animals from the encroaching flames, thousands of people incarcerated in two prisons, some suffering from the coronavirus, were not moved, even while a nearby animal shelter just up the road from the prison complex was emptied. Fortunately, the winds were kind and the fire did not reach the California State Prison, Solano.

The COVID-19 crisis and prison transfers had already taken a toll at California's San Quentin State Prison before the fires, where 26 inmates died of the virus and more than 2,500 prisoners and staff members have been sickened since infected prisoners from a southern California prison were transferred to San Quentin



Prisoner firefighters are paid \$5 a day. The prisoners are highly trained to face the most hazardous conditions and are on the front lines of the fires.

in May without being tested.

The New York Times quotes Adnan Khan, who was previously incarcerated in California and now runs Re:Store Justice, a criminal justice reform organization, spent three years at the prison in Solano. Last month, he spoke to a friend at the prison over the phone. "I got a call and honestly, man, I could literally hear people coughing in the background," he said. "I'm like, 'Is that COVID? What's going on?' My friend says, 'No, there's fires here.'"

Khan said his friend told him that corrections officers were walking into the building with ash on their hats and shoulders and that he didn't believe the prisoners would be safely evacuated. "Approximately 7,000 people in both prisons," he said. "And COVID. And buses. Where are you going to get all these buses from? Fire evacuations are relatively fast. You can't just take your time."

COVID-19 and fires a death sentence, release prisoners now

This is why the demand to release the prisoners from these overcrowded death traps is so important and should be elevated. Due to the pandemic and the fires, many prisoners have, in all practicality, had their sentences increased to the death penalty due to criminal neglect by the state and federal governments.

It is interesting that Gov. Gavin Newsom last Friday signed a bill allowing more inmates, who work as firefighters while serving their sentences, to get jobs with fire departments once they are released. The timing is interesting because the demand for that right, along with a real wage, not slave wages, has a long history. But now, the prisoner volunteer pool has been greatly reduced due to early releases or sickness due to COVID-19. So, they are in much greater demand to a state that relies so heavily on these "volunteers." Perhaps the governor had a change of heart, or felt the necessity to sweeten the pot.

The New York Times quoted a for-

mer prisoner at San Quentin, Mr. Stanley-Lockhart, reflecting on how this crisis affects prisoners already dealing with COVID-19 and who live in a country with the highest incarceration rates and long sentences: "It tends to attack your sense of hope," he said. "If COVID doesn't get us, the fires will get us. If the fires and COVID don't get us, we'll never be able to come out from underneath these sentences."

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report in 2018 suggested that keeping temperatures down to a certain critical level to avoid environmental catastrophe would require "rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society."

As the COVID-19 crisis has shown, the U.S. under the system of capitalism is not only a threat to itself, but to the world. The U.S. is the leading contributor to global warming, far exceeding China in regards to emissions per population, and its rejection of the Paris Accords regarding the international fight against global warming and rejection of the World Health Organization during this pandemic once again shows the necessity of smashing capitalism for the sake of humanity.

A system that breeds racism and sexism, like the former prisoner said, is a recipe for killing hope. Imagine how many of those now fearing the fires behind prison walls could have been the scientists who help us cope with COVID or global warming. Systemic racism in the criminal justice system put them there and keeps them there and denies us their potential contributions. Just as sexism does the same. In fact, global warming was discovered three years prior to its "discovery" by a man. But those findings weren't taken seriously since it was the scientist Eunice Foote, a woman, who actually was the first to discover the relationship between greenhouse gases and atmospheric warming. So, we lost three years. Let's not lose any more in this fight. ■

JOIN US! SUPPORT US!

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Judges will not save us It's the people who make history

By Stephen Millies

People are outraged that Trump nominated right-wing zealot Amy Coney Barrett to the U.S. Supreme Court following the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Especially endangered are women's reproductive rights, rights that enable women to control their own bodies.

Revolutionaries don't sneer at these concerns. The courts are the most reactionary part of the capitalist government. Supreme Court justices have upheld jailing children in cages because they are migrants.

Hundreds of poor people have been executed because of racist judges. Troy Davis was strapped to a gurney while he waited for a stay of execution on the evening of Sept. 21, 2011.

The Black man had been framed for the killing of a Savannah, Ga., police officer. Seven of the nine witnesses recanted their testimony. Even Pope Benedict and former FBI Director William Sessions pleaded for the execution to be stopped.

That didn't bother the handful of Supreme Court judges who ordered Georgia's legal lynching to proceed. The racist execution was the real start of the 2012 presidential campaign.

The torture of Troy Davis — watching him die — was shared by his sister Martina Davis-Correia. She was fighting metastatic cancer while witnessing her brother being killed.

Just one more liberal judge on the high court could have saved the life of Troy Davis. But Georgia was also allowed to murder the Black man because of the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act.

This law severely restricted the right of Troy Davis and other prisoners on death row to file "habeas corpus" petitions in order to introduce new evidence. Joe Biden voted for it in the Senate.

Democratic President Bill Clinton signed this vicious act on April 24, 1996, which was political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal's 42nd birthday. Abu-Jamal's scheduled execution

had been stopped the year before by the power of the people.

It was President Clinton who nominated both Ruth Ginsburg and Stephen Breyer to the Supreme Court. In one of her last court decisions, Ginsburg joined Breyer and the five most reactionary judges on the tribunal in denying asylum to Vijayakumar Thuraisingam, a farmer from Sri Lanka.

Aaron Reichlin-Melnick, of the American Immigration Council, described the June 25 ruling as "a devastating blow to the due process rights of asylum seekers who arrive at our border seeking protection."

Justice Sonia Sotomayor denounced this decision in a dissent joined by Justice Elena Kagan. Sotomayor wrote that it "handcuffs the judiciary's ability to perform its constitutional duty to safeguard individual liberty."

Rights are won in the streets

Nothing was ever given to us by the wealthy and powerful. Every right has had to be fought for.

Why did a unanimous Supreme Court outlaw school segregation in *Brown v. Board of Education*? It wasn't because nine white guys in black robes had a change of heart. As California governor, Chief Justice Earl Warren had supported the racist deportation of Japanese Americans from the state.

This historic, yet limited, 1954 decision was issued as the capitalist economy increasingly needed Black workers. It was also five years after the triumph of the Chinese socialist revolution, which was a tremendous victory against racism.

Against a backdrop of anti-colonial revolts in Africa, Asia and Latin America, U.S. big business and its courts couldn't openly defend white supremacy.

Every progressive law and court decision was the result of struggle. It was Black children fearlessly confronting police dogs and firehoses in Birmingham, Ala., in 1963 that led to the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Demonstra-

tors beaten by Alabama state troopers in Selma won the Voting Rights Act.

Part of that struggle was in the courtroom. We honor the memory of those lawyers who were freedom fighters.

Charles Hamilton Houston worked himself to death preparing human rights court cases while dean of the Howard University Law School. He mentored Thurgood Marshall, who argued against segregation in *Brown* and later became the first Black Supreme Court justice.

Florynce Kennedy was the second Black woman to graduate from Columbia University Law School and fought record companies for ripping off jazz artists Billie Holiday and Charlie Parker. She was one of the lawyers who successfully defended 21 members of the Black Panther Party in New York City facing 156 absurd charges of plotting to bomb buildings.

Ramon J. Jimenez led the fight to save Eugenio María de Hostos Community College in the South Bronx from closing. His law office was always open to help poor people.

Many more attorneys could be mentioned who fought for the people. Fidel Castro, Nelson Mandela and V.I. Lenin — the leader of the Bolshevik Revolution — had been trained as lawyers.

Thousands of attorneys belonging to the National Lawyers Guild and other organizations defend the poor. NLG members working as legal observers have been arrested and brutalized during Black Lives Matter demonstrations.

The work of all these advocates in the courtroom has depended on how strong the people's movement has been at any particular time.

The legal magician Johnnie Cochran could not have saved Ethel Rosenberg's life at the height of the anti-communist witch hunt. She and her husband Julius Rosenberg were framed on made-up charges of giving "atomic secrets" to the Soviet Union and were burned to death in the electric chair on Juneteenth, 1953.



Billionaires control the courts

The communist leader Vincent Copeland emphasized how profoundly anti-democratic the Supreme Court is. Nobody elects the court's nine judges, who can serve for life, like Ruth Ginsburg did.

Copeland also pointed out that these judges were the direct representatives of the biggest capitalist families. They are groomed and monitored during their careers.

Most of the U.S. Supreme Court judges that upheld Eugene Debs' conviction for ignoring an injunction during the 1894 railroad strike had been lawyers for the rail lines. How about that for a conflict of interest?

As a socialist leader who had won the votes of hundreds of thousands when he ran for president, Debs would later be jailed for giving a 1918 anti-war speech. He compared a five to four decision by the high court throwing out a law banning child labor to a craps game. That act of free speech was considered blasphemy.

The Supreme Court during the 1920s was just as reactionary. Its anti-labor decrees were overturned by the working-class upsurge of the 1930s.

The courage of Colin Kaepernick in protesting police brutality is more important than all the judges put together. Judge Ruth Ginsburg attacked Kaepernick for his actions although she had the decency to later apologize.

It's the Black Lives Matter movement with more than 20 million people who have joined in the demonstrations that is changing U.S. politics. As dangerous as Trump's pick for the Supreme Court will be, the people can fight back.

Both the U.S. Supreme Court and the U.S. Senate are undemocratic and need to be abolished. Only by bringing millions of more people into the struggle will we defeat all the Trumps. 📌

Defend activists & organizers under attack!

Continued from page 1

felony charges as a result. The allegations stem from an incident when a group of demonstrators tried to defend themselves against a violent police assault. Ten people were arrested, but Draughn has been singled out for the harshest treatment. At the request of San Diego cops, his bail is set at the outrageous amount of \$750,000 — an amount usually reserved for kidnapping or murder.

Watch an interview of Muambi Tanga of the African People's Socialist Party about Denzel Draughn case: tinyurl.com/y36uacbx

Donate to \$ParrishDavis on CashApp, @Parrish- Davis on Venmo or the Dede McClure Community Bail Fund: gofundme.com/f/help-us-raise-funds-to-support-our-community

Denver

On Sept. 17, police agencies in the Denver area arrested anti-racist organizers in a coordinated assault.

Terrance Roberts of the Front Line Party for Revolutionary Action was arrested, as well as Whitney Lucero and Trey Anthony Quinn. So was Russell Ruch in a parking lot at a Home Depot. Five police cars surrounded and arrested Lillian House. That afternoon, SWAT teams arrested Joel Northam at his home. Eliza Lucero was also arrested. These last four are members of the Party for Socialism and Liberation. All seven are organizers of protests to demand justice for Elijah McClain, who was brutally murdered by the Aurora Police Department. After days in jail, they've been bailed out, and face multiple felony charges and years in prison in an obvious frame-up aimed at stopping the movement for justice for Elijah McClain.

Sign the petition to drop the charges: pslweb.org/dropthecharges

Donate here to the legal and political support campaigns for these organizers: pslweb.org/donate4denver

Tallahassee, Fla.

On Sept. 5, Tallahassee police and Leon County sheriffs attacked a peaceful Black Lives Matter demonstration. After pulling a Black woman organizer from her car, 300 police attacked around 75 to 100 protesters. Fourteen were arrested on the spot and five more have been arrested since, including members of the Students for a Democratic Society and the Freedom Road Socialist Organization. The majority are facing multiple charges, including felonies, that could result in fines of \$10,000 and 10 years in prison. Others face up to one year in jail and a \$1,000 fine for each misdemeanor they're charged with. The demonstration was to protest a grand jury decision not to indict the police officers who murdered Tony McDade, Mychael Johnson and Wilburn Woodard. The three were gunned down by Tallahassee police in March and May of this year.

Call State Attorney Jack Campbell at (850) 606-6000, or email sao-tech@leoncountyfl.gov

Click the "File a Complaint" button on the Tallahassee Police Department webpage at talgov.com/publicsafety/tpd-compliment.aspx

Go to the GoFundMe page to help with the legal fund: gofundme.com/f/community-support-for-blm-protestors-in-tally

Portland, Ore.

The battle against police racism is raging in Portland. Nightly demonstrations have entered their fourth month. Since the end of May, hundreds have been arrested. In August, hoping to quell the protests, incoming Multnomah County District Attorney Mike Schmidt dropped charges against protestors. Demonstrations to challenge systemic racism, arrests and brutality continued, and charges have become

Continued on page 5

Trump's greedy Big Oil backers want more

By Gary Wilson

Donald Trump, a shifty real estate and casino mogul who is in some way connected to the New York mob, was mostly unknown outside of New York City until 2004. That's when Trump started his television career, a show called "The Apprentice." That's how, the New York Times says, "Jeff Zucker helped create Donald Trump." At that time, Zucker was the head of NBC. Now he is the head of CNN.

Trump is a made-for-TV politician. On his own before the TV show, he wasn't doing too well. His real estate operations were mostly losing money, his new buildings were badly designed and engineered, and his casinos went bankrupt.

So what does Trump have now? He has the backing of some of the biggest oil billionaires, owners of the U.S. oil monopolies.

When Trump took the presidency in 2016, his way was paved by Charles and David Koch, oil billionaires notorious for their promotion of right-wing extremism. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo comes from Koch Industries.

And then there's Richard Kinder of Kinder Morgan, with its oil and gas pipelines and coal mining operations. And the Duncan family of Enterprise Products Partners, another oil and gas pipeline operation. Trump appointed their lawyer, William J. Emanuel, to the National Labor Relations Board with the aim of suppressing all union activity. And the biggest fracking tycoon, Harold Hamm, Trump's "informal" energy adviser. The list goes on. Trump hasn't lost any of that support.

Additional support comes from the Rockefellers, the Bush family and the H.L. Hunt oil billions. Trump's previous secretary of state was Rex Tillerson, who had been CEO of the Rockefellers' ExxonMobile.

Trump's secretary of commerce,



Wilbur Ross, is a gas and coal billionaire who had previously backed Rudolph Giuliani for mayor of New York City in possibly the most corrupt administration the city had ever seen, where the police commissioner was a crook openly taking bribes from organized crime.

David Bernhardt, Trump's secretary of the interior, was a lobbyist for Noble Energy, which Chevron just acquired. Chevron is one of the successors of John D. Rockefeller's original Standard Oil Company.

Trump's United Nations ambassador is Kelly Craft, married to the billionaire coal baron Joseph Craft.

Trump's gift to fracking — DAPL

When Trump declared victory in the 2016 election, Continental Resources — the company founded and led by Harold Hamm, Trump's "energy adviser" — announced that oil it obtains via fracking from North Dakota's Bakken Shale basin would be transported through the Dakota Access pipeline.

The Dakota Access pipeline was strongly opposed by the Standing Rock Sioux, who declared that "the Dakota Access Pipeline poses a serious risk to the very survival of our Tribe and ... would destroy valuable cultural resources." A battle against the pipeline was waged for months involving tens of thousands of supporters of the Standing Rock Sioux and drawing in members of more

than 300 federally recognized Native tribes in the U.S. The Obama administration stepped in to put a temporary halt on the pipeline, pending further review by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Four days after Trump took office in 2017, he signed an executive memorandum overturning Obama's decision and directing the Army Corps "to review and approve in an expedited manner" the pipeline. By June of 2017, oil began flowing through the pipeline.

Giving oil billionaires what they want

"Former Secretary of State James Baker considered voting for Joe Biden in November but will instead keep backing Donald Trump, a new biography reveals, in the process outlining a key reason for continued Republican support for the scandal-plagued U.S. president," the Guardian reports.

Though the "myriad ethical scandals surrounding Trump were head-spinning," Baker told the authors, "it was worth it to get conservative judges, tax cuts and deregulation."

Yes, Trump is giving them exactly what they want.

James Baker is a senior member of the Rockefeller-controlled Council on Foreign Relations, together with Henry Kissinger. At the council, Baker's credentials are listed as 61st Secretary of State of the United

States under George H. W. Bush, and 67th Secretary of the Treasury of the United States under Ronald Reagan, 10th and 16th White House Chief of Staff to Presidents Reagan and George H. W. Bush.

In addition, Wikipedia says, Baker was the chief legal adviser for George W. Bush during the 2000 presidential election campaign and oversaw the Florida recount. Even if adviser means attack dog, this doesn't begin to reveal what Baker did to suppress the Black vote in Florida and steal the presidency for Bush. (For example, see Jeffrey Toobin's "The Legal Fight Awaiting Us After the Election," New Yorker, Sept. 21)

The gang of lawyers working with Baker in Florida included John G. Roberts Jr., whom Bush appointed to the Supreme Court, and Noel Francisco, who became President Trump's solicitor general. All lined up there, ready to do it again, if needed.

Capitalism is in crisis, particularly the oil industry. "I'm just living a nightmare," headlined the New York Times. The subhead read: "Oil industry braces for devastation across the United States, companies are laying off workers, shutting down wells and preparing for a prolonged slump as oil prices tumble." That was in April, and while the prices are no longer tumbling, the slump continues.

Imperialist capitalism is made up of numerous monopolies. The term "finance capital" usually refers to the merging of the banks and industrialists, or as Lenin wrote in his study of imperialism, "finance capital is the bank capital of a few very big monopolist banks, merged with the capital of the monopolist associations of industrialists." But key among them, especially now, are the oil monopolists, who are playing a dominant role in politics, who think they have bought the presidency and own it. They created the Trump presidency and intend to keep it going. ■

Defend Black lives!

Continued from page 4

more severe. On Aug. 27, a news release by the U.S. Attorney's District of Oregon office announced that it is going ahead with prosecutions of 100 people who have been arrested since May, many by Trump's federal officers. Seventy-four of them are facing felonies that could result in prison sentences of years. A Sept. 5 NPR audit of the felony charges concludes that the actions protesters were accused of and arrested for were minor and should never have resulted in felonies.

Call the District Attorney's office at (503) 727-1000 or comment on the U.S. Attorney's Office District of Oregon website by emailing usaor.webmaster@usdoj.gov to demand that charges be dropped against anti-racist protesters.

Oklahoma City

In Oklahoma, where the entire Black community of Tulsa was burned down in 1919, and where a white supremacist attack killed 168 people in 1995, Oklahoma County District Attorney Lewis Prater has

charged three teenagers, Malachai Davis, Haley Lin Crawford and Sydney Lynch — as well as two other participants in protests against the police murder of George Floyd — with terrorism. The bond amounts for a dozen other arrestees are between \$200,000 and \$1 million. The harshest treatment has been directed at those arrestees who are African American. Terrorism convictions could mean years or even decades in prison for charges that should have been misdemeanors. In May, DA Prater refused to charge cops who killed Isaiah Lewis during a mental health crisis in September 2019. When 42-year-old Derrick Scott was in custody of Oklahoma City cops in May 2019, he told them he couldn't breathe and asked for his medicine. The cop's response was "I don't care." Scott died soon afterward, but Prater brought no charges against those cops either. In August of this year, James Harmon was shot in the head by cops, also in Prater's jurisdiction, and there is no indication that charges will be brought against the cops who killed him.

Call DA Lewis Prater's office at (405) 713-1600 and demand that he drop all charges against anti-racist protesters and bring charges against killer cops.

Salt Lake City

In Salt Lake City, a group of protestors are charged with felony criminal mischief. District Attorney Sim Gill added a "gang enhancement," which could mean life sentences for seven people who were protesting Gill's decision not to file charges against two SLC cops who shot Bernardo Palacios-Carbajal in the back and killed him. Gill justifies the gang enhancement by saying that the activists conspired to splash red paint and break the windows of a building. The gang enhancement is an inherently racist feature of the criminal justice system, and the fact that it is being used against people protesting police murders of people of color is a further travesty of justice. More than 30 others in Salt Lake City have been hit with serious charges stemming from recent anti-racist demonstrations, including some felonies.

Call District Attorney Sim Gill's office at (358) 468-7600 to demand he drop charges against anti-racist protesters.

Miami

Jonathon Gartrelle, a leading gay, African American, anti-racist activist in Miami, is charged with strong-arm robbery and escape — both felonies — as well as two misdemeanors. Jonathon is accused of removing two Trump flags from parked vehicles and dropping them on the ground while counterprotesting at a pro-Trump caravan. Gartrelle himself was hit by an SUV, which drove away and was not pursued by the cops, who are falsely claiming that Gartrelle declined to press charges. Gartrelle wanted to press charges but refused to go with them in a police cruiser to fill out a report at a precinct.

Sign the petition: change.org/p/miami-police-department-justice-for-jonni

Call Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez-Rundel at (305) 547-0100 to demand that she drop charges against Jonathon Gartrelle.

Compiled by Scott Scheffer

Meatpackers and Trump lie, workers die

By Stephen Millies

Saul Sanchez didn't have to die from the coronavirus. The 78-year-old worker at the JBS meatpacking plant in Greeley, Colo., died on April 7. His fellow workers, his six children and 12 grandchildren mourn him.

Supervision never told Sanchez that some employees had already tested positive for the virus. "They knew their employees were testing positive for COVID-19 a week before my dad got sick," said Sanchez's daughter, Beatrice Rangel.

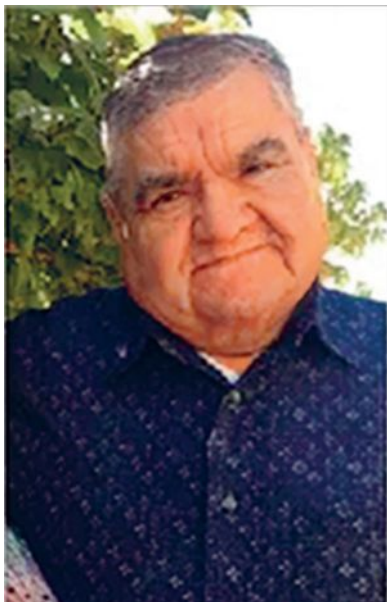
The world's biggest meat and poultry outfit, with sales of \$51.7 billion last year, failed to quickly provide personal protective equipment to workers. Neither did JBS make any attempt to socially distance its employees. Workers at meat and poultry plants continue to work close together on production lines, often two feet apart.

Management lied to Local 7 officials of the United Food and Commercial Workers union. Bosses claimed that Sanchez had caught the virus while on vacation when in fact he hadn't taken any time off.

Saul Sanchez spent over 30 years of his life as an essential worker at the Greeley plant. But as Beatrice Rangel said, he was "just a number" to JBS.

In addition to Saul Sanchez, five other workers died at the JBS plant in Greeley. Two hundred and ninety others have tested positive.

Weld County health officials closed the Greeley plant in April. But



Saul Sanchez

JBS was able to get it reopened in less than two weeks without implementing many of the safety measures that were needed. Not even all the returning workers were tested for the coronavirus.

'Social distancing is a nicety'

The biggest hotspots in the United States for the coronavirus are prisons and slaughterhouses. Around 2,237 inmates at California's San Quentin prison have caught the virus. Twenty-six of them have died.

At least 203 meatpacking workers have died of COVID-19, while 42,534 meatpacking workers in 494 plants have tested positive for the coronavirus.

Just as the prisons are filled with Black, Indigenous and Latinx people, so are the meatpacking and poultry plants. Seven out of every eight meatpacking employees who have tested positive for COVID-19 are workers of color and/or immigrants.

Smithfield Foods is the world's biggest pork company. At its Sioux Falls, S.D., plant, 1,294 workers have tested positive for the coronavirus. Four of them died.

That doesn't seem to bother Smithfield CEO Kenneth Sullivan as much as state governments issuing stay-at-home orders. In a letter to Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts, Sullivan claimed these absolutely necessary health measures were causing "hysteria."

According to this pork boss, "Social distancing is a nicety that makes sense only for people with laptops."

In a letter to Sens. Cory Booker and Elizabeth Warren, Sullivan wrote, "Please understand, processing plants were no more designed to operate in a pandemic than hospitals were designed to produce pork. ... For better or worse, our plants are what they are."

So "for better or worse," workers had to die while Sullivan takes home \$14 million a year.

This CEO figures he can get away with such open callousness after decades of an anti-union offensive by big business. Deindustrialization has destroyed thousands of unionized workplaces.

Pork boss Sullivan's letters are reminiscent of Richard Mellon's outburst towards a group of U.S. senators after he broke a United Mine Workers union strike in 1925. Explaining why he needed to hire private gunmen, Mellon declared, "You could not run a coal company without machine guns!"

Last year the Bank of New York Mellon Corporation had assets of \$381 billion.

The parrot in the White House

The springtime surge of COVID-19 throughout the meat and poultry industry frightened the dead animal capitalists. Not because workers were dying but because they might be forced to make their factories safe.

President Trump came to their rescue. He issued an executive order on April 28 keeping the packing plants open, citing the Defense Production Act.

This order overrode union leaders and local health officials who sought to close the plants until they could be operated safely. So much for "local control" and "federalism."

Trump's decree saved the meatpackers billions while thousands more workers caught the virus. It followed almost word for word a draft written by Julie Potts, president of the North American Meat Institute.

With the presidential selection getting close, the Trump-controlled Occupational Safety and Health Administration fined Smithfield \$13,494. This election stunt works out to \$3,373.50 for each of the four workers who died at Smithfield's Sioux Falls plant or ten bucks for every employee there who tested positive for COVID-19.

Mike Perrone, president of the United Food and Commercial Workers, rightfully called this OSHA fine a "slap on the wrist."

OSHA also fined the JBS plant in Greeley, where Saul Sanchez and five other workers died, \$15,615. UFCW union members answered this insulting figure — which amounts to \$2,602.50 for each worker who died — by demonstrating on Sept. 16.

Trump may be the richest scoundrel to have ever occupied the White House, but he follows orders like every other president.

When the Meat Institute or other big capitalists call, Trump answers. Poor and working people suffer. We need to fight back. ■

In fight against killer cops, 'An injury to one is an injury to all'

Continued from page 1

to know that we have each other's backs. That means we have to get better at defending the movement, and each other.

"There's a growing backlash from the capitalist state — the police, federal agents, ICE, Border Patrol, National Guard, courts and prisons, media and politicians. Trump has encouraged a violent, fascist, white supremacist movement that's treated as a loyal auxiliary by the police that it uses to carry out shootings, vehicle attacks, and more on community members and protesters.

"Revolutionary organizations and activists are being targeted for arrests and violence — socialists, communists, anti-fascists, revolutionary nationalists, anarchists, community organizers, trade unionists — all of us. In the past few weeks, this repression has hit an African People's Socialist Party organizer in San Diego, FRSO and SDS organizers in Tallahassee, Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSL) and Frontline Party for Revolutionary Action (FPRA) organizers in Denver, to name a few. And Trump's federal political police openly carried out the assassination of anti-fascist activist Michael Reinoehl in Portland.

"We need to defend our revolutionary organizations so that we can continue to support and defend the movement in defense of Black lives.

And to do that we have to unite our efforts, in the same way that we rallied to the defense of the Midwest anti-war activists 10 years ago.

"The Socialist Unity Party and Struggle-La Lucha newspaper have issued an appeal to revolutionaries asking that we pledge to defend each other from state attack. As a first step, we've started a running list of comrades across the country who have been jailed or who face heavy charges, with links for bail support, petitions and information on how to take action.

"We urge everyone, every group, to take this information and share it. It's a work in progress, and we need folks to add info on cases that we all should know about.

"Whatever differences our groups may have over the coming election, or the best demands to fight police terror, or bad feelings over past conflicts, I think we all understand that the struggle between working-class people and the capitalist state is going to intensify in the coming months, no matter what happens on election day. Now is the time for us to find ways to work together on the most basic level of self-defense for our organizations and the broader movement.

"Let's unite to keep the struggle for Black lives vibrant and fighting in the streets. An injury to one is an injury to all!"

Sterilization of migrant women in U.S. detention centers

Continued from page 8

scribed the facility as "an experimental concentration camp."

Some 173 federal legislators sent a letter to the inspector general of the Department of Homeland Security demanding an immediate investigation of the complaints on Sept. 25. "We are horrified to see reports of mass hysterectomies performed on detained women in the facility, without their full, informed consent," they said, and requested that "the Office of Inspector General (OIG) conduct an immediate investigation." They added that these reports evoke great concern about violations of body autonomy and reproductive rights of detainees.

On Wednesday of this week, the immigration authorities tried to deport one of the victims, Pauline Binam from Cameroon, who has lived in the U.S. since the age of two and is the mother of a child who is a U.S. citizen. She was already on an airplane in Chicago when she was rescued thanks to the intervention of

legislators Sheila Jackson Lee and Pramila Jayapal, who want her to be able to testify before Congress.

ICE officials questioned the "anonymous and unsubstantiated charges" of the nurse and other accusers. Chad Wolf, acting secretary of Homeland Security, failed to appear before a House of Representatives committee, where he was to have been questioned about this matter.

In fact, at the beginning of the 20th century "eugenics" laws were passed in 32 states of the U.S., causing the sterilization of more than 60,000 women who were categorized as "mentally retarded" or "mentally defective." This served as a model for the Nazis in Germany. However, there are even more recent cases, such as the over 150 women in California prisons who were sterilized between 2006 and 2010.

The revelation this week evoked condemnation from organizations concerned with human rights and defense of migrants. "We are deeply alarmed by reports of detainees sub-

Continued on page 9

Sept. 22 — Activists gathered across from the United Nations headquarters in New York City this afternoon to denounce Filipino dictator Rodrigo Duterte, who had spoken to the U.N. General Assembly.

Duterte has unleashed a wave of terror against workers, peasants and human rights defenders in the Philippines. Among those murdered was 72-year-old Randall “Randy” Echanis, who was stabbed to death on Aug. 10. He was a beloved peace consultant of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines.

At least 30,000 people have been killed by police in Duterte’s “war on drugs.” These executions without trial are meant to terrorize the poor and stop them from organizing.

Yet bloodstained Duterte dared to speak at the U.N. about human rights!

New York police forced protesters to move five blocks north and stopped people from using a bullhorn. First Amendment rights to free speech don’t apply to opponents of U.S.-backed tyrants.

Speakers from MALAYA (the U.S. Movement Against Killings & Dicta-



SLL photo: Steve Millies

No to dictator Duterte!

torship and for Democracy in the Philippines), ICHRP-US (the International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines-United States) and Bayan denounced Duterte.

Steve Millies, from Struggle ★ La Lucha newspaper, declared that “Behind dictator Duterte is Trump and the Pentagon.” He pointed out

the world’s biggest drug pusher is the CIA.

Millies emphasized the important role that Filipina/o workers play in the United States. It was Filipina/o farmworkers who started the historic grape boycott in 1965.

While health care employees come from many backgrounds, New York

City hospitals would have to close without the labor of Filipina/o and Haitian workers.

Duterte’s days are numbered. A powerful day of resistance to his dictatorship is growing in the Philippines. Poor and working people in the U.S. must demand that the Pentagon get out of the Philippines. 📌

Continued from page 6

jected to forced hysterectomies and other invasive procedures in an ICE prison managed by a private company,” declared Amnesty International USA. “I am weeping with frustration. ... What more do they have to do to our migrant community to get people to react, to see our humanity? What else?” asked Erika Andiola of RAICES, an organization defending migrant rights.

“If this ICE sterilization allegation is true, this country has gone full eugenicist — again. And returned to the most monstrous practices of the white supremacist right,” said Jelani Cobb, African-American journalist for the New Yorker magazine.

These actions come on top of innumerable denunciations of mistreatment of migrants under the Trump government, ranging from forced separation of families, placing children in cages, hotels converted into processing centers to process and expedite unregulated deportation of children and families, the lack of protective equipment and conditions that have caused the spread of COVID-19, cancellation of the right of asylum, paramilitary-style round-ups, and complaints of sexual abuse by guards, among other things.

Referring to a regulation invented in March using COVID-19 as an excuse, more than 8,800 unaccompanied minors and 7,800 families are part of the total of 159,000 people deported without the opportunity to present their cases, CBS News reports. On Sept. 16, as a gift to Mexico, U.S. authorities sent a river of deported people across the bridge from El Paso, Texas, in the U.S. to Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, Mexico, reported Alfredo Corchado of Dallas Morning News.

“The systematic, ongoing dehumanization of immigrants by the president and his henchmen has created the climate in which serious human rights abuses happen. ... It is an entire system that views immigrants as less than human,” stated Douglas Rivlin of America’s Voice in Washington.

Source: La Jornada/Resumen Latinoamericano, North America bureau

BROOKLYN, N.Y.

Protest hits unsafe reopening of public schools

By Greg Butterfield

On Sept. 21, the first group of students — special education students and pre-kindergarten children — attended in-person classes in New York City public schools for the first time since school buildings closed in late March due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

After school that day, teachers, other school workers, students and parents rallied to demand safe schools and call for remote-only schooling. The Movement Of Rank & File Educators (MORE-UFT), a social justice caucus of the United Federation of Teachers, called the action.

About 50 people picketed in front of the Department of Education in downtown Brooklyn before marching to nearby Borough Hall, where they occupied the steps, chanting “Money for schools, not for cops!” Soon after, they were joined by 100 educators and students who marched across the Brooklyn Bridge from Manhattan.

“This is a Black Lives Matter issue,” declared Dante, a student from Urban Assembly Maker Academy in lower Manhattan. “This is a funding issue.”

Students, teachers and parents spoke out about the awful conditions confronting many of the city’s underfunded public schools that make in-person classes dangerous — especially overcrowded facilities and woefully inadequate ventilation. With the city and state in a deep budget crisis, and Gov. Andrew Cuomo rejecting calls to tax the rich, no money is being provided to make the necessary changes.

Speakers explained how the rate of COVID-19 infection varies greatly neighborhood by neighborhood. Several areas of Brooklyn have seen recent spikes. Students and teachers commuting to school on public transportation threaten to increase community spread. Black and Brown New Yorkers have disproportionately been victims of the coronavirus.

Teachers, ordered to report in person even if they are teaching remote



classes, have held daily protests outside their school buildings. Some have been working outside on playgrounds to demonstrate the lack of safety indoors. The city has rejected calls for mandatory weekly testing of all staff and students. By Sept. 23, 100 schools had at least one (self-reported) COVID-19 case — before the bulk of the city’s 1.1 million students even reported to class.

Cuomo, Mayor Bill de Blasio and Schools Chancellor Richard Carranza have lied repeatedly to city residents about the school system’s preparedness, protesters charged. Much of the promised personal protective equipment, additional teachers and school nurses never materialized. The city has twice been forced to delay the reopening under pressure from teachers, administrators and families. Now, most students are scheduled to return to classrooms part time during the week of Sept. 28.

As more communities learn about the lack of necessary preparation for safe in-person classes, nearly 50 percent of families have opted



SLL photos: Greg Butterfield

for remote-only learning. But the city has also failed to provide adequate equipment (including laptops and tablets) and WiFi access for New York’s many impoverished and homeless public school students, threatening to inflame already rampant educational inequality.

For daily updates on the struggle for safe schools in New York, visit MoreCaucusNYC.org. 📌

Indigna en EU la esterilización de migrantes en centro de detención

Por David Brooks

Nueva York — Una denuncia sobre posibles histerectomías masivas practicadas sin consentimiento de las afectadas en un centro de detención de migrantes estalló a principios de semana; esto y otros maltratos médicos fueron la gota que derramó el vaso de una multitud de denuncias, incluida la demanda de una investigación de más de 170 legisladores sobre las violaciones y abusos de derechos humanos y civiles generados por las políticas antimigrantes del gobierno de Donald Trump.

Las primeras acusaciones de que mujeres migrantes fueron sometidas a procedimientos ginecológicos sin su consentimiento fueron dadas a conocer el pasado lunes en una queja que presentó una enfermera en un centro de detención Irwin, en Georgia, administrado por LaSalle Corrections, empresa privada bajo contrato a la agencia de control migratorio ICE.

La enfermera Dawn Wooten informó que varias mujeres le dijeron que un doctor, apodado El coleccionista de úteros, les había quitado el útero o practicado otros procedimientos ginecólogos sin su permiso. Esa queja fue reforzada por las de varias migrantes entrevistadas y ahora representadas en ese mismo caso por Project South junto con la Alianza Latina por Derechos Humanos de Georgia, la Red de Apoyo de Inmigrantes del Sur de Georgia y Georgia Detention Watch.

Se sabe de la existencia hasta ahora de entre cinco y 17 casos en ese centro de detención. Una migrante, quien es testigo, describió la instalación como un campo de concentración experimental.

Unos 173 legisladores federales enviaron una carta al inspector general del Departamento de Seguridad Interna exigiendo una investigación inmediata de las quejas con un primer informe el 25 de septiembre. Estamos horrorizados al ver reportes de histerectomías masivas realizadas a las detenidas en esa instalación sin un consentimiento pleno e informado.

Agregan que esos reportes provocan grave preocupación por la violación de la autonomía del cuerpo y los derechos reproductivos de las personas detenidas, escriben en la carta.

El miércoles de esta semana las autoridades de migración intentaron deportar a una de las víctimas, Pauline Binam, originaria de Camerún, quien ha vivido en Estados Unidos desde los dos años y es madre de un hijo ciudadano. Ya estaba dentro del avión en Chicago cuando fue rescatada gracias a la intervención de las legisladoras Sheila Jackson Lee y Pramila Jayapal, quienes desean que declare ante el Congreso.

Voceros de ICE cuestionaron las alegaciones anónimas y no comprobadas de la enfermera y otros denunciante. Chad Wolf, secretario interino de Seguridad Interna, no se presentó ayer ante un comité de la Cámara de Representantes, donde se esperaba que fuera interrogado sobre este asunto.



La enfermera Dawn Wooten (extremo izquierdo), quien reveló presuntas prácticas ginecológicas a migrantes sin su consentimiento en el Centro de Detención Irwin, en Georgia, participó ayer en una protesta contra los abusos y el maltrato a los indocumentados.

Más aún, estas versiones de inmediato generaron comparaciones con prácticas parecidas de las autoridades estadounidenses en diferentes periodos de su historia y hasta muy recientemente, sobre todo contra mujeres afroestadunidenses, mexicano-estadunidenses e indígenas y encarceladas.

De hecho, a principios del siglo XX se promovieron leyes de eugenesia en 32 estados que llevaron a la esterilización de más de 60 mil mujeres consideradas mentalmente defectuosas o débiles mentales; algo que sirvió de modelo para los nazis en Alemania. Pero hay casos más recientes, como las de 150 mujeres en prisiones de California que fueron esterilizadas entre 2006 y 2010.

Las revelaciones de esta semana provocaron denuncias de organizaciones de derechos humanos y de defensa de migrantes. Estamos horrorizados por informes de detenidas sometidas a histerectomías y otros procedimientos invasivos forzados en una cárcel de ICE manejada de manera privada, declaró Amnistía Internacional Estados Unidos.

“Estoy llorando de frustración... ¿Qué más tendrían que hacerle a nuestra comunidad migrante para que la gente reaccione, para que vean nuestra humanidad? Enjaulan a nuestros niños, separan a nuestras familias, esterilizan a las mujeres. ¿Qué más?”, pregunta Erika Andiola, de RAICES, organización de defensa de derechos de inmigrantes.

Si estas acusaciones de esterilización llevadas a cabo por el ICE son verdaderas, entonces este país se ha vuelto completamente eugenésista, otra vez. Y con ello recupera las prácticas más monstruo-

sas de la derecha supremacista blanca, comentó Jelani Cobb, comentarista afroestadunidense de The New Yorker.

Estas acciones se suman a las innumerables denuncias del maltrato a los migrantes en el gobierno de Trump, desde la separación por la fuerza de familias, la colocación de niños en jaulas, hoteles convertidos en centros para procesar y expulsar rápidamente a menores de edad y familias sin regulaciones, la falta de protección y condiciones que han multiplicado los casos de Covid-19, la anulación de facto del derecho de asilo, redadas tipo paramilitares y quejas de hostigamiento sexual por guardias, entre tantas más.

Recurriendo a una regla inventada en marzo para usar como pretexto el Covid-19, más de 8 mil 800 menores no acompañados, 7 mil 800 familias son parte del total de 159 mil personas expulsadas sin oportunidad para argumentar sus casos, reportó CBS News. El 16 de septiembre, como regalo a México, las autoridades enviaron un río de deportados por el puente desde El Paso hasta Ciudad Juárez, informó Alfredo Corchado, del Dallas Morning News.

“La deshumanización sistemática y constante de migrantes por el presidente y sus hombres ha creado el clima en el cual ocurren serios abusos contra los derechos humanos... Es un sistema entero que percibe a los migrantes como menos que humanos...”, afirmó Douglas Rivlin, de America’s Voice en Washington.

Fuente: La Jornada

Sterilization of migrant women in U.S. detention centers causes outrage

By David Brooks

Sept. 18 — An accusation that there were a large number of hysterectomies done without the consent of the women involved in an immigrant detention center exploded at the beginning of this week. This and other reports of medical abuse were the latest in a series of accusations of violations and abuses of human and civil rights set in motion by the anti-immigrant policies of Donald Trump.

The first accusations that migrant women were forced to undergo gynecological surgery without their consent were brought to light by a complaint made by a nurse at the Irwin Detention Center in

Georgia, a private prison run by LaSalle Corrections under contract with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The nurse, Dawn Wooten, revealed that a number of women had told her that a doctor, called “the Uterus Collector,” had removed their uterus or performed other gynecological surgery without their consent. This complaint was backed up by the statements of a number of migrant women interviewed and are represented in this case by Project South as well as the Georgia Latino Alliance for Human

Rights, the South Georgia Immigrant Support Network and the Georgia Detention Watch.

At this time we know of the existence of between five and 17 cases at this detention center. A migrant woman who is a witness to this, de-

Continued on page 6